# Dakota Memorial School is a trauma-informed school, which:

- Helps each student reach their full potential.
- Results in increased academic achievement and test scores.
- Provides an enhanced school and classroom climate, which results in less bullying and harassment.
- Provides emotional security for anxious students, which leads to increased participation in classroom activities.
- Goes beyond identification and referral by helping students deal with the stress while they are in the school setting.
- Identifies students experiencing traumatic stress and refers them to on-site clinical services.
- Experiences reduced student behavioral outbursts and out-of-classroom referrals.
- Educates staff about trauma and how it relates to academic performance.
- Results in reduced stress for students and staff.
- Results in improved student and teacher feelings of satisfaction and safety.



### Dakota Memorial School Locations

#### Minot

6031 19th Ave. NW, P.O. Box 5007 Minot, ND 58702-5007 P: 701-847-4211 F: 701-837-0700

**Bismarck** 1227 35th St. N. Bismarck, ND 58501 P: 701-221-5310 F: 701-250-7230

**Fargo** 7045 15th St. S. Fargo, ND 58104 P: 701-551-6808 F: 701-551-6809



Dakota Memorial School System is accredited by AdvancED, the largest community of education professionals in the world. The rigorous accreditation standards ensure that our students receive an excellent education.

Dakota Memorial School is a place of healing and hope unlike any you've known.



## Dakota Memorial School



At Dakota Memorial School, we help the most troubled, complicated and amazing kids by providing best-in-class education where we look kids in the eye, walk with them, and help them become their best selves in this world and in Christ.



DakotaRanch.org

#### Dakota Memorial School, the on-campus school of Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch:

- Serves both residential and day program students.
- Delivers a personalized education to children in elementary, middle and high school (grades 7-12 in Bismarck and Fargo; grades 4-12 in Minot).
- Supports students with complex learning needs due to psychiatric, behavioral, and trauma issues.
- Consists of a trained educational staff (teachers are highly qualified according to ND Century Code), and provides special education, 504 and Title services.
- Works closely with children's home schools for a smooth transition and credit transfer.
- Is an AdvancED systems-accredited school dedicated to continuous school improvement.



Dakota Memorial School Purpose Statement:

"Our greatest contribution is to be sure there is a teacher in every classroom who care that every student, every day, learns and grows and feels like a real human being." -Donald O. Clifton At Dakota Memorial School, we surround each child with the tools they need to succeed, and engage them in the areas that fit their unique needs.



**Balanced Learning Environments** in classrooms let kids choose the environment best for their learning style. These include specialized work stations, special lighting, and specially trained staff. If students feel restless or unable to focus, they are encouraged to move around to find the space that works best for them at that time.

**Spiritual Life Services** give all children at DMS the opportunity to examine their spiritual beliefs and find hope. Spiritual life programming is voluntary, meaning children are not forced to participate in religious activities. Teachers are free to incorporate their Christian faith into the curriculum.

**Occupational Therapy** teaches children how to filter out unimportant sensory information coming at them from all their senses—touch, sound, sight, movement, body awareness, taste, and smell. In-school occupational therapists work with students to assess and treat sensory processing issues. They help students find positive and appropriate ways to address their sensory needs, both in school and in the residential environment.

**Trauma-informed care** addresses the significant trauma most of our children have experienced. Instead of looking at children and asking, "What is wrong with this child?" we ask, "What happened to this child?" We understand that children's behaviors all serve a purpose, so instead of punishing them for their behaviors, we find out the reasons behind the behaviors and help them develop new, more appropriate ways, to cope with their feelings and emotions.

**Social Emotional Learning** is aimed at building the mindsets, skills, and attitudes that enable students to succeed in school and in life.